

Postdoctoral Residency Position in Clinical Neuropsychology

MATCH NUMBER: 8062

Co-directors: Barry Ardolf, PsyD, ABPP/CN and Andrea Zartman, PhD., ABPP/CN

Core Staff: Justin Jaramillo, PsyD and Greg Westhafer, Ph.D.

Supplemental Staff: Pam Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., Lynnora Ratliff, Ph.D.

Program Overview:

The North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) offers a two-year postdoctoral residency in Neuropsychology and recruits two residents every other year. We are a member of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Neuropsychology (APPCN; www.appcn.org) and follow a practitioner-scholar training model that follows APA Division 40/ Houston Conference Guidelines (Hannay, 1998). As such, this program will assist you in meeting prerequisite requirements for board certification in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). Our APPCN Neuropsychology training program runs alongside our larger APA approved postdoctoral program at the Dallas VA which includes six additional postdoctoral positions in Substance Abuse, Medical Psychology, Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT), Geropsychology and Family/Couples Therapy.

Our main goal is to prepare you for independent practice, help you become more established within the field of Neuropsychology, develop your professional identity and provide a foundation to successfully complete the ABPP process following completion of post-doc.

The workload distribution includes 60% clinical time, 20% didactics, 10% tiered supervision and 10% research with emphasis on providing empirically based assessments and interventions.

Outline of Training Year:

1st 6 months _____ NP Consult Team with 2-3 reports per week, didactics, research

2nd 6 months _____ NP Consult Team 2 days, didactics, research, Neurology half-day

Year 2 _____ NP Consult Team 2 days, minor rotation 1-2 days, didactics, research, supervision

Major Rotation: Neuropsychology Consult Team

Post-docs are primarily housed in the Neuropsychology Consult Team. This team primarily conducts both outpatient and inpatient evaluations from a wide referral sources including Neurology, Mental Health, and Primary Care. The cases seen on this team are typically complex in nature with contributing medical, psychological and neurological etiologies to consider. Post-docs are responsible for seeing 2-3 pts in this clinic per week.

Neurology Experience:

Postdocs will have the opportunity to shadow various neurologists through a variety of settings including the General Neurology Clinic, MS Clinic, and Movement Disorders Clinic.

Minor Rotations:

Minor rotations are completed to help increase one's breadth and depth of training during the second year of training. The following options are available. The length of time and number of rotations one takes is primarily based on the post-docs interests and desires. You can choose no less than 2 and no more than 4 minor rotations. The rotations you can choose from are as follows:

TBI/Polytrauma:

The Polytrauma Program was developed to assist patients by providing them with comprehensive services and an interdisciplinary approach to their treatment. By definition, these patients have sustained simultaneous multiple injuries, at least one of which was life threatening. VANTHCS has been designated as a Polytrauma Network Site, with responsibility for all Polytrauma patients who reside in VISN 17, reaching from southern Oklahoma to south Texas. The VA national initiative to identify brain injured OEF/OIF patients has resulted in tasking the TBI/Polytrauma program with assessing patients who served in Afghanistan/ Iraq and have had experiences consistent with traumatic brain injury (severity ranging from mild to severe). Differentiating the symptoms of brain injury from those of mental health problems, such as posttraumatic stress disorder or depression, or related to their other physical injuries, is also a part of the job of the neuropsychologist on the TBI/Polytrauma Team. This rotation is largely an assessment rotation. The fellow will additionally have the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary team meetings, the Polytrauma Comprehensive Assessment Clinic, new amputation psychological evaluations and a TBI Support Group (for those with a history of moderate to severe TBI).

MH Silver Team (Geropsychiatry team):

Patients age 62 and older are assigned to this team for their care regardless of their psychiatric diagnosis. In this manner, the Silver Team is very much a general practice team with specialization in terms of the age cohort which it treats. Fellows work within the context of an interdisciplinary team at all stages of patient evaluation and treatment. They acquire knowledge of and skills in neuropsychological assessment and common mental health problems associated with aging. The vast majority of work will be with outpatients conducting comprehensive assessment, determination of capacity, and if desired, individual and/or group psychotherapy. However, the Psychology Fellow may be called upon periodically to see inpatients. Fellows will be actively engaged in all aspects of evaluations from test-selection to feedback and there is the possibility of layered supervision with interns or practicum students.

Spinal Cord Injury Unit:

The Spinal Cord Injury Center (SCIC) is an 11-million dollar addition to the Dallas VA that opened in 1996. The center includes a 30-bed inpatient unit to care for the medical and rehabilitation needs of persons with spinal cord injuries or other neurological dysfunctions (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, and Cervical Stenosis) as well as an outpatient clinic for comprehensive care throughout the lifespan. The SCIC operates a CARF accredited rehabilitation program for spinal cord injury. The clinical mission of the Spinal Cord Injury Center is to enhance the health, functional abilities and quality of life for persons with spinal cord injury or disease. Psychology is an integral part of the interdisciplinary team that works together toward this stated goal. Other members of the team include: physicians, physician assistants, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, recreational therapists, psychology technician, chaplains, and dietitians. Patients served at the SCI Center comprise a diverse population in terms of ages (19-89), disabilities, medical conditions, education (4th grade through Ph.D. level), occupations, family support, and psychiatric diagnosis. Services provided as part of an SCI rotation include: neuropsychological assessment, behavioral modification, marital and/or family therapy, group therapy (e.g. Caregiver Psycho-educational Groups, Peer Mentoring Program), sexuality counseling, smoking cessation services, pain management, substance abuse screening, and consult liaison services for the SCI Outpatient clinic. Another important role for psychology is providing staff consultation and education.

Community Living Center (CLC: Rehabilitation/Extended care):

The CLC is a 120-bed extended care facility which provides rehabilitation in an interdisciplinary setting for veterans who are recovering from stroke, those who need long-term care due to chronic illness (e.g.,

cardiac disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), those who need respite care due to loss of caretaker, those who need hospice care due to terminal illness (e.g., cancer, AIDS), those who suffer from various kinds of dementia, and those who have experienced traumatic brain injury. Fellows participate in all the activities of the interdisciplinary treatment team and will function with responsibility for the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans. Opportunities for experience with groups include participation in support groups for caregivers and involvement in the AEGIS volunteer peer counseling program at the Community Living Center. Additional experience with veterans suffering from heart disease is provided through evaluation of veterans in the congestive heart failure clinic, the pre-surgical evaluation clinic, the post-cardiac surgery intensive care unit and the cardiac rehabilitation program. Approximately 70% of a fellow's time will be spent in assessment-oriented activities and 30% in treatment activities during this rotation.

Therapy:

Therapy is NOT a component of this fellowship. However, a brief experience participating in Evidenced Based Therapy may be available. The following EBPs are available in which the post-doc would work with a non-neuropsychologist to see 1-2 pts using the following modalities: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy.

Setting:

Dallas VA is the second largest VA in the country with multiple specialized programs. There are 70+ psychologists on staff (10 which are ABPP in various areas, 2 ABPP in Neuropsychology). Dallas has formally trained psychology fellows since the early 1980's and postdocs of different specialties since 1992. This will be the first training class for Neuropsychology at the post-doctoral level. However, our Neuropsychology track internship has a strong history of post-doctoral placement and employment as neuropsychologists. Finally, we have a strong relationship with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Resources:

Onsite library with online access to a large number of medical journals

Personal offices for post-docs

Electronic medical records

Desktop access to neuroimaging

Didactics and Supervision:

Required Didactics:

- Neuropsychology Journal Club (2nd-4th Wednesdays of month) with South Texas VA
- Neuropsychology Case Conceptualization (2nd & 4th Wednesday of month with NP core staff)
- Neuropsychology Group Supervision (every Monday with NP core staff)
- Neuropsychology Research Meeting (3rd Wednesday of month with NP core staff)
- Neurology Grand Rounds (1st Wednesday of month at UTSW)
- Brain Cutting (1st Wednesday of month at UTSW)
- Postdoctoral general didactics (once a week for the first year)
- Diversity Journal Club (once a month with all trainees and some of general staff)

Supplemental Didactics:

- Psychiatry grand rounds (once a week)

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- Neuroanatomy and physiology course at UTSW Medical School (2nd year)

Fellows will also receive at least 1-2 hours of individual supervision on a weekly basis.

Teaching and Supervision:

Trainees will have opportunity to participate in tiered supervision of practicum students. They may also be involved in ongoing education and training of psychometricians. Trainees will be expected to teach at least one fellow didactic and present once to the Psychology Community Meeting on a jointly agreed upon topic.

Stipend: Year 1 - \$44,648 (please note there is no state income tax in Texas)

Year 2 - \$47,061

Benefits: Health Insurance, 13 days paid vacation, all federal holidays, and up to 13 days of sick leave.

Application Procedure:

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are candidates in (or have completed) an APA-accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology. They must have completed an APA accredited internship program and earned their Ph.D. or Psy.D. prior to the start of the residency.

We will be participating in the APPCN match process and interviews will be conducted at the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) conference. For additional information about the match, please go to: <http://apcn.org/FAQmatch.html>.

To apply, please complete the following:

1. Cover letter outlining career goals and goodness of fit. As an attachment to this letter, please state the number of reports written (graduate school and internship) and list the neuropsychological tests that you have administered and scored.
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. Official graduate transcripts
4. Three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an internship supervisor, sent directly from the letter writer via electronic attachment
5. Two de-identified neuropsychological assessments (reports only)
6. Letter from dissertation chair regarding dissertation status and anticipated completion date, if doctoral degree has not been completed at the time of this application.

We will be participating in the APPA CAS (APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application) process this year. All application materials are to be submitted by this process through the website <http://www.appic.org>

Deadline for application materials is January 1st 2016.

Staff:

Barry R. Ardolf, Psy.D., ABPP _____ (BarryR.Ardolf@va.gov)

School: Forest Institute of Professional Psychology.

Neuropsychology Fellowship, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI.

Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)

Primary Job Assignment: Neuropsychology Consult Team

Primary Interests: Neuropsychological assessment, dementia, Geropsychology

University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

Pamela J. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., ABPP _____ (Pamela.Fitzpatrick@va.gov)

School: Arizona State University, Clinical Psychology,
Diplomate in Rehabilitation Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)
Primary Job Assignment: Spinal Cord Injury Center
Primary Interest/Expertise: Rehabilitation Psychology, Neuropsychology, Adjustment to Disability,
Sexuality & Disability
University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

Justin Jaramillo, Psy.D. _____ (Justin.Jaramillo@va.gov)

School: Rutgers University
Neuropsychology Fellowship: University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Chicago, IL
Primary Job Assignment: TBI/Polytrauma
Primary Interests/Expertise: TBI, dementia, stroke
University Affiliation: None

Lynnora Ratliff, Ph.D. _____ (Lynnora.Ratliff@va.gov)

School: University of North Texas, Clinical Psychology
Primary Job Assignment: Community Living Center
Primary Interest/Expertise: Geropsychology, Adjustment to Disability, Depression in Old Age, Cardiac
Rehabilitation, Neuropsychology
University Affiliation: Clinical Instructor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

J. Gregory Westhafer, Ph.D. _____ (John.Westhafer@va.gov)

School: University of Texas at Austin
Neuropsychology Fellowship, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
Primary Job Assignment: Mental Health Silver Team (Geropsychiatry)
Primary Interest/Expertise: Neuropsychology (General), Movement Disorders, Dementia, TBI, Stroke
University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

Andrea Zartman, Ph.D., ABPP _____ (Andrea.Zartman@va.gov)

School: University of North Texas, Clinical Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine
Neuropsychology Fellowship: VA South Texas Health Care System, San Antonio, TX
Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)
Primary Job Assignment: Neuropsychology Consult Team & Team Leader, Behavioral Health Team
Primary Interest/Expertise: TBI vs PTSD, dementia, ecological validity of executive functioning
University Affiliation: Assistant Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

Reference:

Hannay, H.J. (1998). Proceedings of the Houston Conference on specialty education and training in clinical neuropsychology. Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 13 (2), 157-249.